

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3735

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) System for analysing a sample to be examined comprising

- a test field containing a reagent which on contact, interacts with an analyte contained in a sample resulting in an optically detectable change in the test field;
- at least one light-conducting element having
 - a distal end on which the test field is coated, wherein the test field is permanently adhered to form a layer on the distal end and
 - a ~~second~~ proximal end into which light can be coupled such that light is conducted from the ~~second proximal~~ end to the test field and is conducted away again from the test field by the same or another light-conducting element; [[and]]
 - a lancet which at least partially surrounds the light-conducting element having a lancet tip which is located in a region of the distal end and of the test field in such a manner that the lancet tip extends beyond the distal end of the light guide and beyond the test field during a lancing process, wherein the lancet has an opening that enables the test field on the distal end of the light-conducting element to protrude beyond the lancet tip for contacting the sample, wherein the opening of the lancet is unobstructed to allow the test field on the distal end of the light-conducting element to protrude beyond the lancet tip; and
 - a driver configured to move the test field on the distal end of the light-conducting element from a first position where the test field is located inside the lancet to a second position where the test field on the distal end of the light-conducting element protrudes beyond the lancet tip for contacting the sample for reducing dead space issues.

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26. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 25, which has a plurality of test fields.
27. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 25, which has a plurality of lancets.
28. (Currently amended) System for analysing a sample to be analysed comprising
 - a test field containing a reagent which on contact, interacts with an analyte contained in a sample resulting in an optically detectable change in the test field;
 - at least one light-conducting element having
 - a distal end which is permanently connected to the test field, wherein the test field is permanently adhered to form a layer on the distal end and
 - a proximal end into which light can be coupled such that light is conducted from the second end to the test field and is conducted away again from the test field by the same or another light-conducting element; and
 - a lancet having a lancet tip which is located in a region of the distal end and of the test field in such a manner that the lancet tip extends beyond the distal end of the light guide and beyond the test field during a lancing process, the lancet being hollow, wherein the light-conducting element[[is]] extends within the lancet, wherein the lancet has an opening that enables the test field on the distal end of the light-conducting element to protrude beyond the lancet tip for contacting the sample; and
 - a driver configured to move the test field on the distal end of the light-conducting element from a first position where the test field is located inside the lancet to a second position where the test field on the distal end of the light-conducting element protrudes beyond the lancet tip for contacting the sample for reducing dead space issues.
29. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, in which the reagent in the test field reacts essentially irreversibly with the analyte.

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30. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 29, which is suitable only for single use.
31. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, which is suitable only for single use.
32. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, which has a plurality of test fields.
33. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 32, which has a plurality of lancets.
34. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, in which the lancet and the light-conducting element are arranged concentrically relative to one another.
35. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, in which the lancet and the light-conducting element are arranged in direct vicinity to one another in a plane perpendicular to the lancing direction.
36. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, in which the lancet tip is embedded in a sterile protection.
37. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, which is suitable for determining a glucose concentration from blood.
38. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28, which can be optically contacted with an analytical unit of an analytical instrument such that light is coupled into or out of the light-conducting element.

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39. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 28,

which is used in a lancing device.

40. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 39,

in which the lancing device comprises an analytical unit which is optically contacted with the light-conducting element in such a manner that light can be coupled into the light-conducting element and the light conducted away from the test field can be detected by the analytical unit.

41. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 39,

in which the lancing device can be coupled to an analytical unit such that

light can be coupled into the light-conducting element and the light conducted away from the test field can be detected by the analytical unit.

42. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 39, in which the lancing device comprises a drive unit for the lancet.

43. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 42,

in which the lancing device contains a drive unit for the light-conducting element.

44. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 39,

in which the lancing device contains a drive unit for the light-conducting element.

45. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 44,

in which the lancing device contains a drive unit for transporting the test element.

46. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 39,

in which the lancing device contains a drive unit for transporting the test element.

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47. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 39, which is positioned in a magazine of the lancing device in which a plurality of systems is located.

48. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein:
the at least one light-conducting element includes a primary light guide configured to conduct primary light onto the test field and a secondary light guide configured to conduct secondary light that is reflected from the test field; and
wherein the primary light guide and the secondary light guide are optically separated to enhance measurement accuracy.

49. (New) The system of claim 48, wherein the primary light guide and the secondary light guide are optically separated by a barrier layer that has a refractive index that is less than the refractive index of the light conducting element.

50. (New) The system of claim 49, wherein the barrier layer includes a metallic reflecting material.